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Spectacle Island to Host Sail Boston 2017 Viewing Event

Purchase Tickets Now for June 17th's Parade of Sails

BOSTON, MA – Boston Harbor Now, the National Park Service (NPS), the City of Boston, and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will provide a special viewing event on Spectacle Island for Sail Boston 2017's Parade of Sails, which is scheduled for Saturday, June 17, 2017. The event will offer guests one of Boston Harbor's most breathtaking views as the tall ships sail into the City's port. Additionally, ticket holders will be provided with roundtrip ferry transportation to Spectacle Island, all day programming, and food and drinks. Tickets for the event are available at www.bostonharborislands.org/tallships, and cost \$75 for adults and \$70 for children.

"Boston Harbor Islands State and National Park is an incredibly special place to visit where guests can explore historical sites, such as military forts and lighthouses, and enjoy outdoor recreational activities including hiking, boating, camping, fishing, and swimming," said **Rebecca Smerling, Programming Director of Boston Harbor Now**. "By partnering together, Boston Harbor Now, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the City of Boston, and the National Park Service is thrilled to provide this very special event."

NPS and DCR staff will be on site to assist in the identification and description of the tall ships and their crews as they pass by Spectacle Island. Furthermore, interactive programming will focus on nautical history and include kite flying, ship building, crafts, knot tying, storytelling, lawn games, scavenger hunt, flag making, photo experiences, face painting, hiking, and more.

"The Department of Conservation and Recreation is excited to partner with the National Park Service and Boston Harbor Now to offer a truly exceptional experience on Spectacle Island for the public to enjoy during the Sail Boston 2017's Parade of Sails event," said **DCR Commissioner Leo Roy**. "The Baker-Polito Administration encourages enjoyment of the Commonwealth's park lands and natural, cultural, and historic resources."

Spectacle Island features the highest vantage point within Boston Harbor, offering unparalleled views as the Tall Ships sail into the port. Boston Harbor Cruises will depart at 7:00AM from Boston's Long Wharf and return from Spectacle Island at 3:00PM. Additional boats will leave from Hingham Shipyard at 7:15AM and 8:45AM and depart from Spectacle Island at 2:30PM and 4:00PM (there will not be any service back to Boston or Hingham prior to scheduled departures). The day's viewing event will provide up to eight hours or more for people to explore the island, participate in programming, and watch the ships as they sail into Boston. Return departures will be subject to clearance from U.S. Coast Guard and law enforcement following the parade's conclusion and may be subject to delay.

Aside from roundtrip ferry transportation to and from the island, ticket holders will also receive a food package featuring pastries and coffee upon arrival, and a BBQ lunch buffet, including the choice of a hamburger or hot dog, chips, and a drink. Additional items will be readily available for purchase at the Salt Water Lobster Company. All participants will go through security screening prior to boarding the vessels. Guests are encouraged to visit www.bostonharborislands.org/tallships for a full list of safety regulations and restrictions for this event.

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Leo Roy, the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.

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